

REMARKS

The Final Office Action, mailed November 16, 2007, considered claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-25, 27, 28, 31-39 and 42-44. Claims 3, 4, 24, 25 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims(s) contain subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 22-25, 27, 28, 31-39 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as been indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-25, 27-28, 31-39 and 42-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown (US Patent Publication No.: 2002/0156895 A1).

By this response, claims 1, 3-4, 15, 24-25, and 38 are amended and claim 44 is cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-25, 27-28, 31-39, and 42-43 remain pending.¹ Claims 1, 15, 22, and 36 are independent claims which remain at issue. Support for the amendments may be found within Specification ¶¶ 48-55.²

As reflected in the claims, the present invention is directed generally toward embodiments for controlling how contact information is provided to applications. Claim 1 recites, for instance, in combination with all the elements of the claim, a method for controlling how contact information is provided to one or more applications through the presentation of personas associated with a particular user and which can be selected to control which corresponding contact information is sent to a requesting application. The method includes detecting a request for contact information from an application. Upon detecting the request and prior to providing an application with contact information, it is determined whether the application is authorized to access the contact information and that the application is authorized to access the contact information, further identifying available contact personas associated with the particular user. After detecting the request and prior to providing the application with contact information, the user is informed that the application is seeking certain contact information. The

¹ The amendments and remarks presented herein are consistent with the information presented by telephone by patent attorney John Bacoch (reg. no. 59,890) and attorney Thomas Bonacci.

² However, it should be noted that the present invention and claims as recited take support from the entire Specification. As such, no particular part of the Specification should be considered separately from the entirety of the Specification.

user is presented with a list of selectable contact personas. A selection of a persona is received from the user. An appropriate format for the contact information is determined and the application is provided with the contact information.

Claim 22 recites a computer program product embodiment of the method of claim 1.

Claim 15 recites, in combination with all the elements of the claim, a method for controlling how contact information is provided to one or more applications. The method includes, in response to a request for contact information by an application and prior to providing contact information to the application, informing the user that the application is seeking certain contact information, providing an interface object comprising a plurality of listed and selectable contact personas associated with a single person, and allowing a user to select one of the contact personas to be provided to the application. In response to a user selection of a particular contact persona, the contact information corresponding to the selected contact persona is displayed. A user can modify the contact information corresponding to a selected persona, and, upon approval, the contact information is provided to the application.

Claim 36 recites a computer program product embodiment of the method of claim 15

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 3–4, 24–25, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.³ The Applicants submit, however, that support for claims 3 and 24, as considered, may be found within the original claims. Claim 1, as originally presented, had recited the element “presenting to the user the information that is intended to be provided to the application and allowing the user to determine whether that information will actually be actually provided to the application and whether other information will be provided to the application.” The Applicants submit that the original claims, when read in light of the Specification, provided support for claims 3 and 24 as considered.

Notwithstanding, claims 3 and 24 have now been amended and reflect material disclosed within the specification. *See* Specification ¶¶ 33, 55. As claims 4 and 25 were rejected based upon the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 3 and 24, respectively, they, too, should now be in comportment with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of claims 3–4 and 24–25. Claim 44 has been cancelled.

³ Office Communication p. 3 (paper no. 20071108, mailed Nov. 16, 2007).

Claims 22–25, 27–28, 31–39, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.⁴

In particular, claim 22 was rejected as it “appears to be a manufacture claim depending on a method claim.”⁵ Claim 22 is a manufacture claim which claims a computer program product. The computer program product comprises computer-readable storage media which has instructions stored thereupon for implementing the method of claim 1. The claim is intended as an independent manufacture claim which incorporates the method of claim 1 by reference. Although the claim is presented in a form often acceptable to the PTO, the Applicants would not hesitate to explicitly recite the elements of the incorporated method should the Examiner find it desirable. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney for authorization of an Examiner’s amendment should such explicit incorporation be considered necessary.

Claim 36, similar to claim 22, is a manufacture claim which recites a computer program product and incorporates by reference the method of claim 15. As above, should the Examiner find it desirable to explicitly recite the elements of the method which is incorporated by reference, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney for authorization of an examiner’s amendment.

Claims 23–25, 27–28, 31–35, 37–39, and 43 were rejected based upon the rejections of the underlying claims 22 and 36. In consideration of the preceding discussion, and as claims 22 and 36 should be in comportment with 35 U.S.C. § 112, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of each of claims 22–25, 27–28, 31–39, and 43.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1–4, 6–7, 10–25, 27–28, 31–39, and 42–44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Brown.⁶ Independent claims 1 and 15 have now been amended and claims 22 and 36 incorporate the elements of claims 1 and 15, respectively, by reference. The Applicants submit that Brown fails to teach each and every element of the claims as they are now presented.

⁴ Office Comm. p. 5.

⁵ Office Comm. p. 6.

⁶ Office Comm. pp. 6–7.

In particular, as to claim 1, Brown fails to teach upon detecting a request for contact information from an application and prior to providing the application with contact information, determining whether the application is authorized to access the contact information and upon determining that the application is authorized to access the contact information, identifying available contact personas associated with the particular user, each of the contact personas comprising contact information about the particular user. Further Brown fails to teach after detecting the request and prior to providing the application with contact information, informing the user that the application is seeking certain contact information.

Notably, the Examiner had stated that, concerning a "user's concurrent involvement in the provision of identifying and selecting contact information to be presented the application," the elements "are not recited in the rejected claims."⁷ By the present amendments, the user's involvement – temporally between detecting (or receiving) a request and ultimately providing the application with contact information – is now made explicit. Further, the Applicants submit that Brown fails to teach any such informing the user occurring between detecting a request for contact information and providing the contact information.

In view of the amendments and because of at least the distinctions noted above, the Applicants submit that Brown fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 and therefore a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Brown would be improper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of claim 1.

Claim 22 recites a computer program product embodiment incorporating the method of claim 1. Accordingly, the discussion above applies also to claim 22. Correspondingly, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of claim 22.

Claim 15 has also been amended to more particularly point out the present invention. In particular, Brown fails to teach in response to a request for contact information by an application and prior to providing contact information to the application, informing the user that the application is seeking certain contact information. As above, this limitation makes explicit the temporal involvement of a user such that a user is informed after a request is received and prior to providing contact information to the application.

In view of the amendments and because of at least the distinctions noted above, the Applicants submit that Brown fails to teach each and every element of claim 15 and therefore a

⁷ Office Comm. pp. 20–21.

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Brown would be improper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of claim 15.

Claim 36 recites a computer program product embodiment incorporating the method of claim 15. Accordingly, the discussion above applies also to claim 36. Correspondingly, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of claim 36.

Dependent claims 3–4 and 24–25 have also been amended by this response to particularly point out the temporal relation that certain acts are performed after having received a request for contact information. As discussed above, this is an element not taught by Brown. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of dependent claims 3–4 and 24–25.⁸

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and such that any of the remaining rejections and assertions made, particularly with respect to all of the dependent claims, do not need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice, and particularly with regard to the dependent claims.⁹ For example, there are many limitations presented in the dependent claims that further distinguish the claims from the cited art, including, but not limited to the limitations presented in each of the dependent claims.

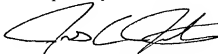
⁸ It should also be noted that, as the underlying independent claims should now be in condition for allowance, the dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance despite the present amendments.

⁹ Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting any official notice taken. Furthermore, although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 801-533-9800.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



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